

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 ACDA-19

IO-14 EB-11 NIC-01 SAJ-01 COME-00 CIEP-03 CEA-02

TRSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 /139 W
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R 201504Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1797

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USIA WASHDC

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS ON U.S. DEVELOPMENTS

USIA FOR IOP/M, IBS/PS

REF: MOSCOW 12628

1. SUMMARY: SOVIET PRESS ATTENTION HAS SHIFTED EMPHASIS FROM
PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION TO ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN U.S., WHILE AT
SAME TIME REPEATING IMPLICATION THAT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS PLUS
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ENEMIES OF DETENTE DROVE NIXON FROM OFFICE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE WEIGHT OF SOVIET PRESS COVERAGE OF U.S. DEVELOPMENTS HAS SHIFTED FROM NIXON RESIGNATION, FORD ACCESSION, AND RELATED EVENTS TO ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN THE COUNTRY. PRAVDA AUGUST 19 GIVES LEADING PLACE ON FOREIGN NEWS PAGE TO STORIES ON SERIOUSNESS OF INFLATION AND FALLING STOCK MARKET PRICES WITH GLOOMY QUOTATIONS FROM LEADING AMERICAN ECONOMISTS. IZVESTIYA SAME DAY PRINTS ARTICLE BY V. KOBYSH ON UMW STRIKE IN CONTEXT OF POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT OF MINE WORKERS AND ONGOING CLASS STRUGGLE. ALTHOUGH SOVIET PRESS HAS EVEN DURING SUMMIT EUPHORIA PRINTED OCCASIONAL ARTICLES POINTING OUT ECONOMIC MISERY IN CAPITALIST WORLD, TEMPO HAS CLEARLY INCREASED.

3. THE "ECONOMIC EXPLANATION" FOR THE RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT NIXON APPEARED IN A MAJOR ARTICLE IN THE AUGUST 20 ISSUE OF PRAVDA BY DIRECTOR N.N. INOZEMTSEV OF IMEMO. IN THE COURSE OF HIS HARSH ANALYSIS OF THE WOES OF CAPITALISM IN THE 1970S, INOZEMTSEV WRITES THAT "THE SERIOUS INTERNAL POLITICAL CRISIS IN THE US WHICH LED FIRST TO THE RETIREMENT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT AND THEN TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNTRY WAS A VIVID EXPRESSION OF THE CONTRADICTIONS OF CAPITALIST SOCIETY AND SERIOUS CONFLICTS AMONG RULING CIRCLES." LIKE OTHER SOVIET WRITERS ON THE PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION, INOZEMTSEV AVOIDS SPECIFIC CITATION OF THE REAL REASONS FOR PRESIDENT NIXON'S RESIGNATION.

4. AUGUST MONTHLY OGONEK (RECEIVED AUGUST 20) FEATURES ARTICLE ON NEW PRESIDENT BY IGOR' TROYANOVSKIY WHICH ALSO PLACES NIXON RESIGNATION IN SETTING OF "WORSENING ECONOMIC SITUATION" AND SIMULTANEOUS "SPECULATION" ON WATERGATE BY OPPONENTS OF DETENTE (SUCH AS SENATOR JACKSON), WHO ON EVE OF HIS LAST VISIT TO SOVIET UNION TRIED TO PRESSURE HIM TO CANCEL TRIP AND SLANDERED POSSIBLE AGREEMENTS AS SIGNS OF WEAKNESS. LIKE RECENT NEW TIMES PIECE (PARA 4, REFTEL), TROYANOVSKIY LEAVES READER WITH IMPRESSION THAT WATERGATE WAS IN ITSELF A RATHER MINOR AFFAIR WHICH WAS USED BY NIXON'S VARIOUS ENEMIES TO BRING HIM DOWN.
STOESSEL

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